GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6423
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2002
BASIC TELEPHONY
ARUN KUMAR

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the basic telephony is considered to be a Business Sector ; and

(b) if so, the manner in which the Government plan to ensure basic telephony in uneconomical rural areas, with the ongoing disinvestments process ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDA)

(a) The tariff for wireline and wireless (fixed) terminals are not cost based. Therefore, the Basic Telephony cannot be considered a business sector.

(b) The roll out obligations of the new licensees are prescribed in terms of setting up of Points of Presence in urban, semi-urban and rural areas in equal proportion in each phase to ensure Basic Telephony in uneconomical rural areas, with the ongoing disinvestment process.